

How Do I Study the Bible?

OBJECTIVE: To give students practical ways to study the bible and grow in their spiritual maturity and relationship to Christ.

MAIN IDEA: There is more than one way to study the bible to learn about God. When our hearts are willing and committed to studying scripture, we will be equipped to fulfill God's calling(s) in our lives.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES: 2 Timothy 3:12-15, Psalm 119:105, Psalm 119:9-11, Psalm 119:97, Psalm 119:33-34

Introduction (3 minutes)

OPENING PRAYER: *"God, we ask you to give us a committed desire to study your word. Show us how to purpose our lives around our relationship to you. Amen."*

PREVIOUS REVIEW: How are you doing? What's going on?

Lesson (15 minutes)

1. What are some reasons to study in school? (to pass tests, make good grades, graduate, etc) Studying the bible is also important because it helps us pass the 'test' of temptation we face in the world. Also, studying the bible helps us 'graduate' into mature Christians by learning and acting on God's truth." Read 2 Timothy 3:12-15.
2. We are going to discuss several different ways to study or learn from God's word. One of the easiest ways to learn is simply by reading the bible. The bible can be hard to understand at times - - but that doesn't mean we give up reading it. Rather, we should pray, seek answers from the Spirit, and ask others for help. Read Psalm 119:105. The bible tells us how to live as Christians. It is the 'light' on our path in our world, so we should want to read it every day. Encourage each other to explore reading the book of Psalms or John if you wondered where to start reading God's word.
3. Also, writing in a journal or drawing can be beneficial to our spiritual growth. When we reflect and meditate on God's word through writing or drawing, we make a personal connection with the Lord. Also, both writing and art are good outlets for expressing our feelings and coming up with ways to use what we have learned." Read Psalm 119:97.
4. Lastly, external sources – such as devotions and bible lessons – also help us study God's word. Read Psalm 119:33-34. Any time you listen to a bible lesson or sermon, it is an opportunity to understand the bible under the guidance of another Christian. Make an effort to learn from the people God has put into your life - as they are wanting to help you grow closer in your relationship to Christ. What questions would you ask or topics about faith would you discuss?

Conclusion (5 minutes)

RECAP: Studying God's word takes commitment and conversation. Reading the bible, writing in a journal, and utilizing others through bible study and devotions are all useful ways to become more mature in our faith.

CLOSING PRAYER: *"Lord, give us conviction when we forget to study your word. Equip us to grow stronger through you and use what we learn to reach others for Christ. Amen."*